

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending. Claims 2-3, 7-8, 10-37 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 31 and 34-36 are rejected. Claims 1 and 6 are amended for technical clarity. Support for the amendment can be found in the Specification for e.g., at page 9, line 16. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendments. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims and/or the subject matter contained therein, in one or more divisional/continuation applications.

RESPONSE TO REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 4-6, 9 and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by PCT Publication No. WO9824724. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as follows:

The pending claims (1, 4-6 and 9), as amended, are directed to fibers and a network of fibers of molecular sieves that consist of an organosilane, vitamin E TPGS, an acid, an alcohol and water. The cited reference does not teach the use of vitamin E TPGS in the synthesis of a molecular sieve fiber. Thus, the cited reference does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention and does not anticipate the instant invention.

Claims 35 and 36 have been canceled thus rendering the rejection moot with respect to these claims.

RESPONSE TO REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)/103(a)

Claims 31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Martin 4,127,706 or Martin et al. Martin *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 4,043,331) (collectively “Martin”). Claims 31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Simpson et al U.S. 2004/0037813 (Simpson) or Layman et al. US 2003/0215624 (Layman). Claims 31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Senecal et al US 6,800,155 (Senecal). Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ignatious et al. US 2003/0017208 (Ignatious). Claims 31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over PCT Publication No. WO9824724.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as follows:

Claims 31 and 34 have been canceled thus rendering the rejections moot with respect to these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and arguments, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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